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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

CHILDREN'S BUREAU

MONTHLY RELIEF BULLETIN -- MAY, 1932

By Anne E. Geddee

Deoline of 6 Per Cent in May Relief

Following the eharp April downturn, relief in May dropped 6 per cent from the level of the previous month, according to reports of 928 agencies or divieions of departmente representing moet but not all of the important relief organizations in 126 citiee. In May in theee cities, which vary in eize from 50,000 to 6,900,000 population and repreeent 56 per cent of the urban population of the United States, the reported relief aggregated $22,310,417. Of thie amount $3,890,756 was given in the form of wage relief; $18,419,661 wae given outright. While wage relief dropped 18 per cent from April, the decline in outright relief wae only 3 per cent.

Deoreaee between April and May in the expenditures of all but three classee of agencies--the public veterane' departments, the private emergency committeee, and the public work-relief agencies--ie shown in Table 1 on the following page. While the Catholic agenciee record a drop of 48 per cent, thie decline ie due largely to the heavy weighting of a eingle agency--the Central Charity Bureau of Chicago--which reduced ite relief drastically in May. The 55 per cent drop in private wage relief aleo reflecte to a very large extent the etringency of funde of a single agency--the Emergency Work Bureau in New York, which reduced ite pay rolle by nearly $800,000.

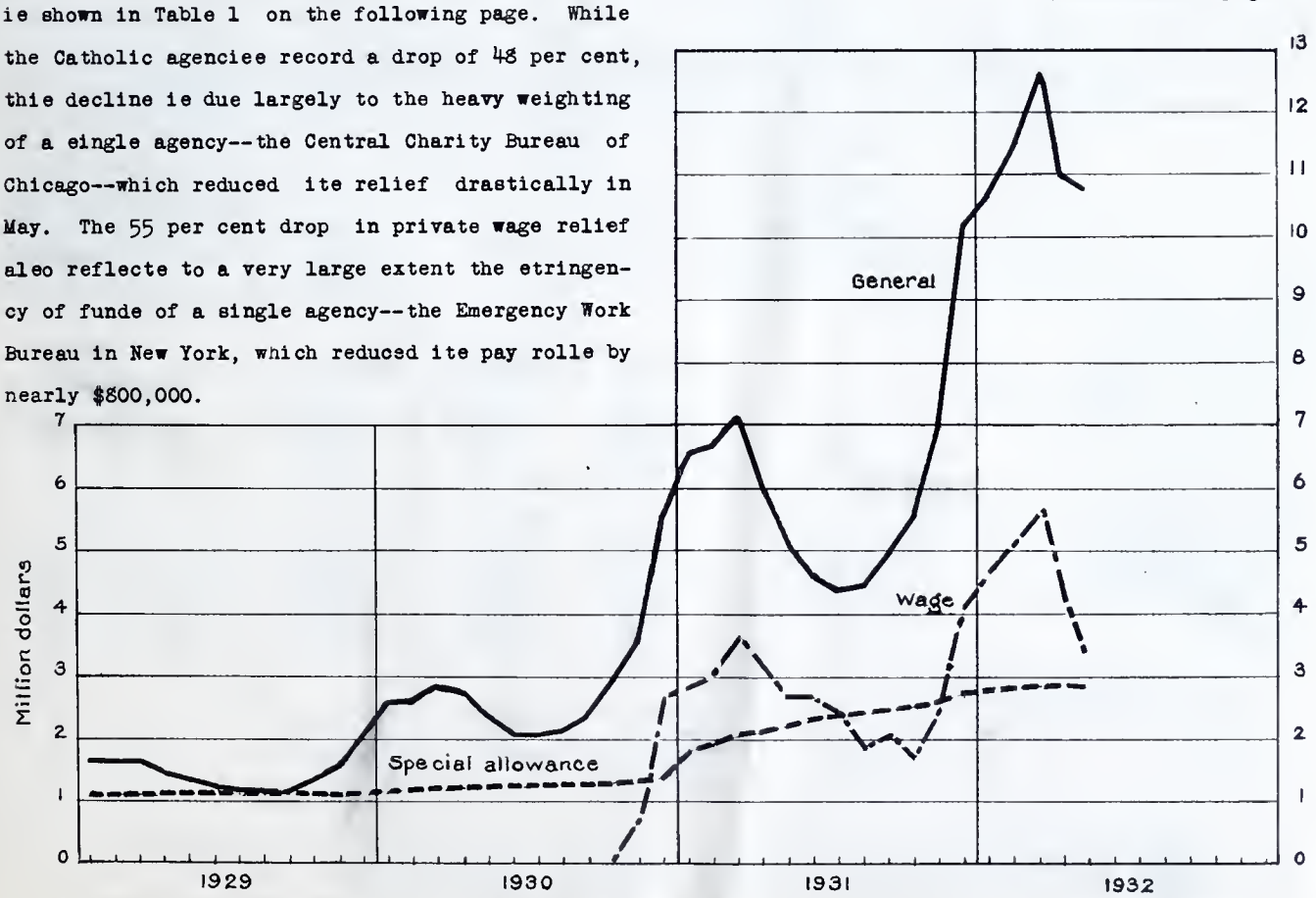
4 Per Cent Decline in Familiee Receiving Outright Relief

While the amount of outright relief granted in May declined 3 per oent from the previoue month, the number of families given outright relief dropped 4 per cent from April, aocording to reporte of 746 agenciee. In May, 1932, ae ie indioated in Table 1a, theee agenciee aided 823,894 familiee, as contraeted with 857,409 in April, 1932, and 386,151 in May, 1931.

Diagram Tracee Trende in Three Claeeee of Relief

The mounting coet of relief during the period of the depreeeion ie ehown in the diagram below, which records month by month einoe January, 1929, the relief expendituree of three major groupe of agenciee. The curves representing wage relief and general relief regieter the eeaeonal downturn oo-

(oontimued on page 3)



Amount of Relief--247 General, 87 Special-Allowance, and 42 Wage-Relief Agencies--January, 1929, to May, 1932

Table 1. - Amount of relief given in May, 1932, and comparison with May, 1931, and April, 1932
928 agencies or divisions of departments in 126 cities of 50,000 or more population

Type of agency	Agencies or divisions of departments reporting	Amounts given			Per cent change from	
		May 1931	April 1932	May 1932	Apr.,1932 to May,1932	May,1931 to May,1932
Outright relief						
Public departments						
General relief 1/	112	$3,750,346	$8,413,851	$8,089,681	-4	116
Veterans' relief	37	485,281	1,121,538	1,123,835	(2)	132
Special-allowance groups						
Mothers' aid	93	1,784,328	2,058,166	2,018,818	-2	13
Old-age aid	32	796,819	1,256,466	1,238,023	-1	55
Aid for the blind	33	136,865	160,634	154,838	-4	13
Private agencies 3/						
Nonsectarian family societies	138	1,525,973	2,793,745	2,694,473	-4	77
Jewish agencies	60	271,891	393,880	387,827	-2	43
Catholic agencies	51	343,512	641,806	331,728	-48	-3
Veterans' agencies	86	43,250	87,329	74,826	-14	73
Emergency committees	29	258,290	1,803,745	2,051,123	14	694
Salvation Army	88	225,733	194,889	163,686	-16	-27
Other	70	130,027	100,575	90,803	-10	-30
Total, exclusive of special-allowances	671	$7,034,303	$15,551,358	$15,007,982	-3	113
Total	829	$9,752,315	$19,026,624	$18,419,661	-3	89
Wage relief						
Public departments	58	$2,060,446	$2,866,444	$3,047,008	6	48
Private agencies	41	691,795	1,857,279	843,748	-55	22
Total	99	$2,752,241	$4,723,723	$3,890,756	-18	41
Total outright and wage relief reported by all agencies	928	$12,504,556	$23,750,347	$22,310,417	-6	78

Table 1a. - Number of families aided in May, 1932, and comparison with May, 1931, and April, 1932
746 agencies or divisions of departments in 126 cities of 50,000 or more population

Type of agency	Agencies or divisions of departments reporting	Families aided			Per cent change from	
		May 1931	April 1932	May 1932	Apr.,1932 to May,1932	May,1931 to May,1932
Outright relief						
Public departments						
General relief 1/	85	142,600	383,688	366,544	-4	157
Veterans' relief	34	14,312	40,674	39,085	-4	173
Special-allowance groups						
Mothers' aid	86	35,012	41,052	40,846	-1	17
Old-age aid	29	23,678	39,967	40,794	2	72
Aid for the blind	29	4,827	5,146	5,151	(2)	7
Private agencies 3/						
Nonsectarian family societies	116	81,559	183,112	175,456	-4	115
Jewish agencies	59	7,643	11,995	11,887	-1	56
Catholic agencies	51	29,476	41,887	24,856	-41	-16
Veterans' agencies	85	3,430	6,641	6,330	-5	85
Emergency committees	18	893	67,980	79,179	16	(4)
Salvation Army	87	33,302	26,042	25,188	-3	-24
Other	67	9,419	9,225	8,578	-7	-9
Total, exclusive of special-allowances	602	322,634	771,244	737,103	-4	128
Total	746	386,151	857,409	823,894	-4	113

1/ These figures may include some mothers' aid, some aid to the blind, and some veterans' relief.
2/ Percentage is less than one.
3/ In several cities private agencies are administering some public funds.
4/ Percentage not computed because not significant; many emergency agencies are unable to report on families aided.

(continued from page 1)

curring in April and May. No change in May is shown in the level of the special-allowance curve which represents both mothers' aid and old-age aid. Although the special allowances throughout 1931 increased at a more than normal rate, it now appears that this class of relief is becoming more stabilized.

Average Allowance for Mothers' Aid Declines from May, 1931

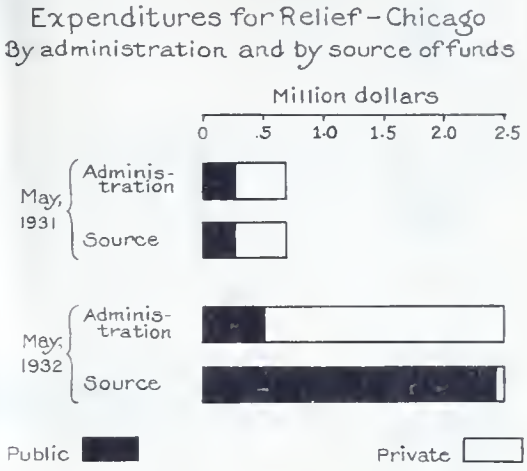
For several months there has been evidence of progressive decline in the amount of mothers' aid granted in certain cities. This decline is not evident in the special-allowance curve combining old-age aid with mothers' aid. Table 1 shows decrease between April and May of 2 per cent in the aggregate expenditures of 93 mothers' aid offices. In order to determine whether this decline in mothers' allowances represents a general tendency or reflects only the influence of some of the larger offices, the per cent change from April to May for each office has been computed. The median agency registers no change between the two months.

For each of 86 mothers' aid offices reporting both families and amounts, the average grant per family in May, 1931, and in May, 1932, has also been computed. In May, 1931, the average allowance of the median agency was $40.45, and in May, 1932, $39.05, which represents a decline of $1.40. Based on the aggregate figures of the 86 offices, the average grant per family was in May, 1931, $47.36, and in May, 1932, $45.86, a decline of $1.50. In the interval between May,1931, and May, 1932, however, the cost of living has also decreased.

Private Agencies Financed by Public Funds in Many Cities

Until recently, with certain notable exceptions, private agencies have administered private funds and public departments have administered public funds almost entirely. At present, however, in many cities private agencies are now administering large public funds, while in a few cities--Boston, Philadelphia, Denver, and Detroit, for example--public departments have been administering private funds in the past few months.

The accompanying diagram illustrates the discrepancy between administration and source of funds in Chicago, which represents an extreme instance of public financing of private agencies in this emergency. The two bars representing the administration and source of funds in May, 1931, are identical, but striking dissimilarity is displayed by the two bars for May of this year, when the taxpayer bore practically the entire cost of relief in Chicago.



Expenditures in 92 Cities Shown in Table 2

Detailed figures on relief expenditures in May, 1931, and in April and May, 1932, are shown in Table 2 for 92 of the 126 cities contributing relief data. The cities listed in the table are those for which reports received are believed to be substantially complete.

Decline between April and May is shown by 69 of the 92 cities. For the group the median percentage of decrease is 11 as contrasted with the 6 per cent drop in Table 1, based on the aggregate figures of all agencies.

Of 90 cities reporting comparable data for May, 1931, and May, 1932, all but 9--Bethlehem, Lancaster, Detroit, Saginaw, Kansas City, Mo., Memphis, Shreveport, Los Angeles, and Oakland--show expansion between last May and May of the present year. Cities reporting increases of 250 per cent or more are Bridgeport, New Britain, New Rochelle, Yonkers, Chicago, Wilmington, Mobile, and Seattle. For the total group of cities, the median percentage of increase is 94. Increase of 78 per cent in aggregate expenditures is indicated in Table 1.

Because of the difficulty of uniform valuation, the value of Federal flour distributed in April and May by reporting agencies has been omitted from the figures on amount of relief given. This flour was made available through the American Red Cross under authority of act of Congress. In general the smaller cities have made relatively more use of this flour than the large cities. A few agencies reported conversion of flour into bread for distribution through the commissary.

(continued on page 6)

Table 2. - Expenditures for outright and wage relief in May, 1932, and comparison with May, 1931, and April, 1932 -- 92 cities

The cities included in this table are those for which reports are believed to be complete or substantially complete. Unreported emergency relief in important amounts may have been given in some cities. These figures are presented subject to revision.

City and geographical division	Agencies or divisions of departments reporting	Amount of outright and wage relief			Per cent increase or decrease from		Amount of wage relief		
		May 1931	April 1932	May 1932	Apr., 1932 to May, 1932	May, 1931 to May, 1932	May 1931	April 1932	May 1932
New England									
Portland	6	(1)	$20,322	$28,567	41	(1)	(1)	-	-
Boston	13	$594,594	1,207,828	1,173,170	-3	97	-	-	-
Brockton 2/	9	25,437	66,161	46,493	-30	83	-	-	-
Fall River	7	38,493	90,604	104,972	16	173	-	-	-
Lawrence	7	(1)	62,912	69,168	10	(1)	(1)	-	-
Lowell	6	54,079	68,009	67,441	-1	25	20,538	-	-
Lynn	9	61,845	108,167	90,661	-16	47	-	-	-
Malden	9	18,807	45,097	39,459	-13	110	646	-	-
New Bedford	7	57,833	91,784	97,750	7	69	-	-	-
Newton	9	9,135	29,084	20,634	-29	126	-	9,360	517
Springfield	13	91,653	169,580	166,512	-2	82	-	-	-
Worcester	8	98,469	196,849	183,713	-7	87	-	-	-
Providence	10	113,467	168,728	155,726	-8	37	75,000	89,678	75,566
Bridgeport 3/	11	39,094	130,488	143,254	10	266	-	57,306	73,140
Hartford	9	85,403	177,997	157,112	-12	84	-	51,819	33,103
New Britain	8	25,673	101,558	105,044	3	309	-	5,982	-
Middle Atlantic									
Albany	12	36,326	60,950	47,252	-22	30	-	19,537	11,985
Buffalo	21	292,247	1,012,604	931,964	-8	219	-	293,272	261,211
New Rochelle	8	4,981	29,919	24,497	-18	392	-	13,139	10,587
New York	28	3,452,988	6,502,132	6,182,249	-5	79	1,228,854	2,746,306	2,139,596
Niagara Falls	10	34,862	130,972	114,670	-12	229	-	54,380	45,746
Rochester	9	252,302	398,963	310,293	-22	23	28,765	38,566	-
Syracuse	13	71,973	259,021	198,109	-24	175	327	50,473	28,067
Utica	12	(1)	108,271	68,138	-37	(1)	(1)	40,620	7,256
Yonkers	10	42,693	106,786	168,739	58	295	-	4,578	79,041
Allentown	3	24,425	44,067	41,615	-6	70	-	-	-
Bethlehem 4/	4	37,216	15,904	18,062	14	-51	30,000	-	-
Chester	11	14,805	27,086	39,404	45	166	630	-	-
Erie	7	27,169	64,652	60,015	-7	121	-	-	-
Lancaster	6	9,219	15,605	2,923	-81	-68	-	-	-
Philadelphia	15	618,525	904,243	1,095,808	21	77	5,500	-	-
Pittsburgh	9	360,251	642,207	614,606	-4	71	222,000	194,600	129,000
Scranton	5	25,863	52,469	55,515	6	115	-	-	-
Wilkes-Barre 3/	4	41,536	119,532	104,115	-13	151	-	-	-
East North Central									
Akron	11	30,396	64,683	56,638	-12	86	-	-	-
Cincinnati	14	137,084	245,001	273,509	12	100	37,000	66,192	72,281
Cleveland	9	306,580	494,412	473,257	-4	54	13,266	-	-
Columbus	14	55,056	125,382	128,826	3	134	-	61,431	64,550
Dayton	11	41,664	85,313	73,513	-14	76	13,474	10,082	12,568
Toledo	5	71,515	112,774	100,539	-11	41	-	-	-
Evansville	4	18,755	39,286	36,578	-7	95	-	3,615	2,977
South Bend 5/	5	20,497	39,052	38,557	-1	88	-	-	-
Terre Haute	6	7,127	15,489	13,781	-11	93	-	-	-
Chicago	15	698,940	2,514,970	2,501,257	-1	258	4,682	33,896	140,765
Evanston	6/3	9,602	20,396	22,090	8	130	-	-	-

Saginaw	4	41,410	48,364	57,997	-16	8			
Kenosha	8	28,277	72,091	75,035	4	165	-	-	-
Milwaukee	10	274,926	785,737	673,089	-14	145	56,117	126,173	34,243
Racine	8	37,368	81,517	74,722	-8	100	1,121	2,567	2,271
West North Central									
Minneapolis	10	73,236	241,176	171,346	-29	134	-	8/ 11,884	8/ 15,139
St. Paul	12	34,964	104,226	92,308	-11	164	-	-	-
Sioux City	6/ 10	5,987	20,157	17,977	-11	200	-	-	-
Kansas City, Mo.	5	82,217	85,241	69,192	-19	-16	46,235	-	-
St. Louis	12	94,790	267,024	259,298	-3	174	-	-	-
Omaha 3/	10	17,544	36,740	18,913	-49	8	-	-	-
South Atlantic									
Wilmington	11	23,234	140,792	107,334	-24	362	4,807	79,900	61,343
Baltimore 3/	8	87,899	263,362	299,103	14	240	-	-	-
Washington	12	37,505	114,416	72,595	-37	94	52	26,679	2,789
Norfolk	6/ 5	2,776	5,353	4,000	-25	44	-	-	-
Roanoke	4	2,930	3,581	3,305	-8	13	-	-	-
Ashevills 3/	3	2,351	7,570	5,784	-24	146	-	-	-
Charleston, S. C. 3/	5	778	2,667	2,109	-21	171	-	-	-
East South Central									
Louisville 3/	9	21,892	61,518	41,086	-33	88	-	21,976	4,468
Knoxville	5	5,315	16,092	16,993	6	220	-	14,012	15,070
Memphis	6/ 5	15,331	9,086	7,631	-16	-50	-	-	-
Nashville 3/	2	2,706	6,970	5,564	-20	106	-	-	-
Birmingham	6/ 4	43,262	82,506	79,374	-4	83	34,532	5,953	5,819
Mobile	4	572	6,366	4,927	-23	761	-	3,508	2,666
West South Central									
New Orleans	12	40,964	30,656	47,921	56	17	28,542	23,512	40,384
Shreveport 3/	6/ 7	4,396	4,326	3,172	-27	-28	-	-	-
Tulsa	2	7,649	20,585	20,471	-1	168	-	-	-
Dallas 9/	6	11,930	38,487	30,538	-21	156	-	26,386	21,965
El Paso	3	3,965	10,264	6,722	-35	70	-	-	-
Fort Worth	4	9,152	15,939	13,694	-14	50	-	-	-
Houston	6/ 6	7,762	13,955	14,951	7	93	-	-	-
San Antonio	5	2,792	8,091	4,627	-43	66	-	-	-
Mountain and Pacific									
Denver	6/ 12	25,391	79,746	66,850	-16	163	-	14,729	9,040
Seattle 3/	9	31,173	181,398	191,407	6	514	2,334	-	-
Tacoma	7	15,005	32,301	30,716	-5	105	-	-	-
Portland	7	74,723	194,283	143,402	-26	92	43,200	132,868	95,571
Berkeley	7	18,087	36,220	34,178	-6	89	-	5,708	979
Los Angeles	10	1,042,237	786,385	638,207	-19	-39	549,334	41,553	30,693
Oakland	7	138,590	208,389	107,734	-48	-22	-	-	-
Sacramento	8	19,364	24,493	22,112	-10	14	-	-	-
San Diego	10	50,204	73,864	89,751	22	79	1,980	13,088	20,831
San Francisco	19	353,431	512,189	564,737	10	60	247,027	211,107	267,545

1/ Figures are not available.
2/ Figures for April, 1932, represent bills paid in the month and do not reflect the volume of relief given in the month.
3/ Reports of one or more important agencies are known to be missing.
4/ In previous months the pay rolls for work on sewers and water mains were exoluded from this table; since this is considered work relief by the Community Chest it is now included.
5/ Figures for April and May, 1932, are estimated for Township Trustees.
6/ Different from count in previous month's bulletin because one or more agencies funotioned during some month in that comparison, but not in any month shown in this tabulation.
7/ Amount of wage relief is not separately reported, but is included in total expenditures.
8/ Work relief, administered as an incidental part of the program of one or more agencies, is not included here.
9/ Figures for May, 1932, are estimated for Juvenile Court.

(continued from page 3)

34 Cities Submit Incomplete Reports

Because of late or incomplete reports the following cities are excluded from Table 2. Reports of some agencies in these cities, however, are included in Tables 1 and 1a.

New England
- Cambridge
- Somerville
- New Haven

Middle Atlantic
- Bayonne
- Camden
- The Oranges
- Jersey City
- Newark
- Paterson
- Trenton
- Altoona
- Harrisburg
- Reading
- Sharon

East North Central
- Canton
- Springfield, Ohio
- Youngstown
- Fort Wayne
- Indianapolis
- Cicero
- Madison

West North Central
- Duluth
- Des Moines
- Kansas City, Kans.
- Topeka
- Wichita

South Atlantic
- Richmond
- Huntington
- Winston-Salem
- Atlanta
- Jacksonville
- Miami

West South Central
- Oklahoma City

Mountain and Pacific
- Salt Lake City

Meals Decline 23 Per Cent, Lodgings 26 Per Cent, from April

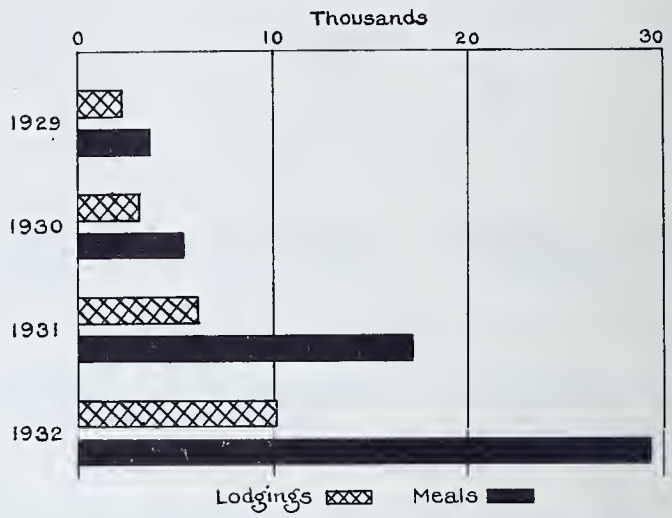
In May, for the third consecutive month, the number of meals and lodgings provided to homeless and transient persons declined from the previous month. According to reports received from municipal lodging houses, jails, the Salvation Army, missions, and other public and private agencies serving the homeless and transient in 62 cities, the number of meals provided in May totaled 884,265, as against 1,152,528 in April and 508,452 in May, 1931; the number of night's lodgings furnished totaled 303,694, as contrasted with 408,687 in April and 179,819 in May of the previous year.

Volume of service	May 1931	April 1932	May 1932
Meals:			
Total	508,452	1,152,528	884,265
Daily average	16,402	38,418	28,525
Night's lodgings:			
Total	179,819	408,687	303,694
Daily average	5,801	13,623	9,797

The decline from April to May in the daily average of meals served was 23 per cent and in the average number of lodgings furnished nightly was 26 per cent. The median drop between the two months, based on the figures for individual cities, was 11 per cent for both meals and lodgings.

Comparison of the volume of service in May, 1931 and May, 1932, shows increase between the two months of 74 per cent in meals and 69 per cent in lodgings. For the 62 cities the median percentages of increase are 58 and 40, respectively.

Average Number of Meals and Lodgings per Day Provided to Homeless and Transient Persons in May of 1929, 1930, 1931, and 1932
61 Cities

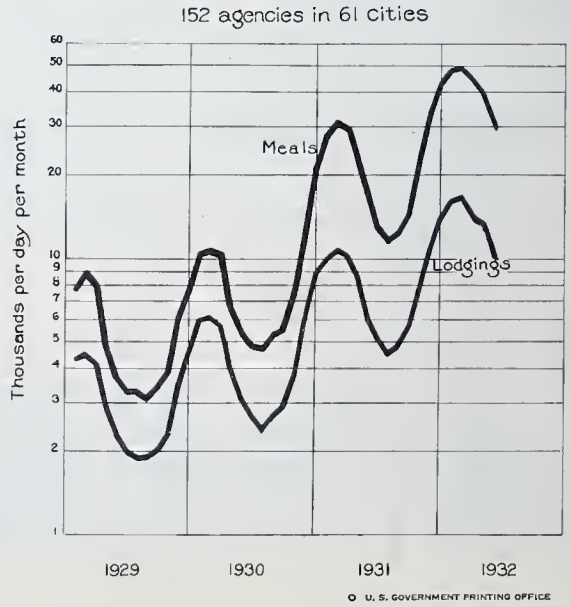


Diagrams Measure Increase in Transient Service

The bars in the diagram above measure the volume of meals and lodgings in May of 1929, 1930, 1931, and 1932, in 61 cities. It will be noted that the increase in meals is proportionally greater than the increase in lodgings. The ratio of meals to lodgings in May was 1.6 in 1929; 1.7 in 1930; 2.8 in 1931; and 2.9 in 1932.

The two curves below trace the trend of meals and lodgings for 41 months from January, 1929, to May, 1932.

Trend of Meals and Lodgings Provided To Homeless and Transient Persons
152 agencies in 61 cities



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